Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

MAEAP

May 8, 2007

House Agriculture Committee

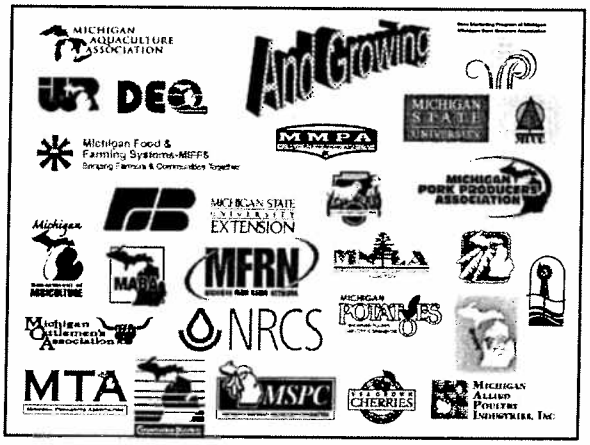
MAEAP Mission

- To develop and promote a recognized, *voluntary, proactive environmental assurance program,* targeted to the agricultural industry, which ensures that producers are engaging in cost-effective pollution prevention practices and are in compliance with environmental regulations.
- … Facilitate Success.

What is MAEAP?

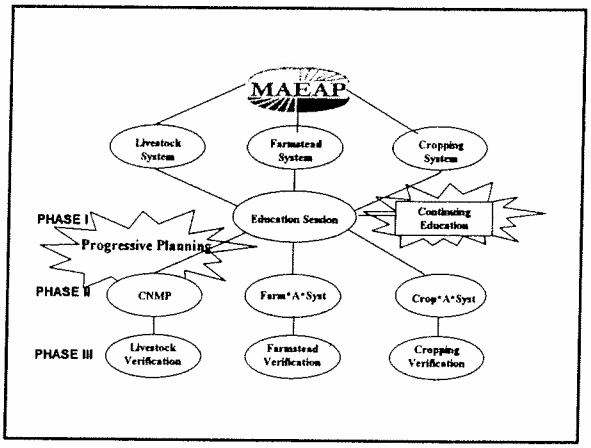
- Partnership
  - Industry
  - Conservation
  - Agency
  - University

- Directed by Steering Committee-Partner Representation
- Facilitated by committees and task force groups



MAEAP

- Three Systems
  - Livestock
  - Farmstead
  - Cropping
- Built on existing, recognized programs and standards
- Voluntary, confidential, non-regulatory
- Every farm, every size, every commodity



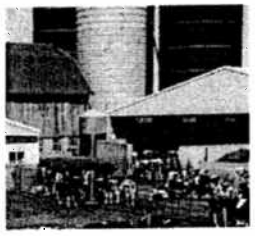
Why Participate?

- Improved management
- Plan for the long term
- Liability reduction
- GAAMPs conformance
- Regulatory "good faith effort"
- Access to cost-share and other incentives
- Peace of mind

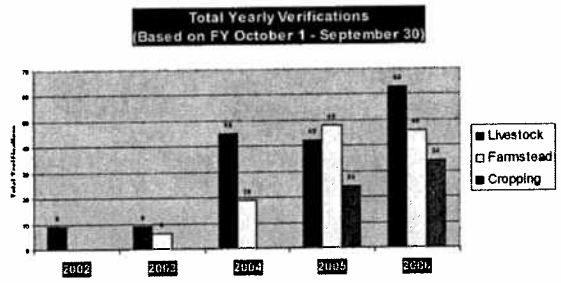
Program Updates

In less than 1 year....

- From 100 to over 350 farms verified.
- From 100 farms in Progressive Planning to over 550.
- An additional 1600 farmers attended Phase 1.



Verifications Over Time



MAEAP

Questions?

www.MAEAP.org

Background

Michigan Department of Agriculture
Environmental Stewardship Division **April 2007**

Name of Program: **Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)**

Program Manager: **Janice Wilford, MAEAP Manager**
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Legal Authority:

- P.A. 451, part 82 of 2001 gives the Michigan Department of Agriculture the authority to establish and administer programs to prevent pollution from agriculture and private landowner activities through voluntary, incentive-driven strategies and gives the MDA the authority to issue certificates to producers who have completed the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program.

Stakeholders and Key Representatives:

- Michigan producers
- State and federal agencies
- Michigan commodity and agricultural organizations
- Michigan State University
- Conservation partners

Established Date: Program organized 2000

Number of farms affected: Targets all farms, all size and all species
Livestock Verification began April 2002: Currently 175 verified farms
Farmstead Verification began Sept. 2003: Currently 132 verified
Cropping Verification began June 2005: Currently 83 verified
Number of producers participating: 5500+ have attended the educational sessions since 2001
CAFO activity: Since June 2003, 116 CAFOs without discharges have completed MAEAP Livestock System requirements in lieu of applying for coverage under a NPDES permit. These facilities are all required to apply for a NPDES Permit by July 1, 2007.

Time Frame/Peak Activity: January through April, July through September, November and December (activities change seasonally)

Purpose and Description of Program:

- The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is a voluntary, pro-active program designed to reduce producer's legal and environmental risks. MAEAP is an industry and government initiative signed by the Directors of the Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Quality in 1998. The program teaches effective land stewardship practices that comply with state and federal regulations specific to the program and shows producers how to find and prevent agricultural pollution risks on their farms. Each MAEAP system – Livestock, Farmstead and Cropping – examines a different aspect of a farm and, through education, management plan development and farm inspections, helps producers develop and implement economically feasible, effective and environmentally sound pollution prevention practices.

Program Timeline:

- Livestock System implemented 2000
- Farmstead System implemented in 2002

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- Cropping System implemented in 2004 for traditional row crops, in 2006 for the Nursery industry (including Christmas trees) and Orchards and Small Fruit and Vegetables. Scheduled for early 2007 is the greenhouse edition, a combination of the Farmstead and Cropping Systems.
- Progressive Planning Initiative January 2004
- Innovative agreement between MDEQ and USEPA to allow MAEAP Livestock System option completion for CAFOs without discharge in lieu of a NPDES discharge permit concludes December 31, 2007
- MAEAP fosters positive community and neighbor relations and assures farmers have used effective tools for assessing and correcting environmental risks which helps minimize enforcement actions. In addition, MAEAP verified farms are recognized as outstanding environmental stewards and are eligible for cost-share incentives, tax credits, low-cost lending and reduced liability insurance premiums from participating companies.

MAEAP's Environmental Impact (FY 06 Information)

- Proper application - Field by field, almost 214,000 acres (included in CNMPs) were verified as being properly evaluated for appropriate manure application and conservation practices.

- Less Erosion – On farms verified in the MAEAP Livestock System, soil loss through sedimentation has been reduced by almost 567,000 tons.

- Fuel Use Reduced – Manure nutrients appropriately used in place of commercial fertilizer resulted in the reduction of 7,558,745 gallons of diesel fuel required for fertilizer production.

- Safely Stored – On farms verified in the MAEAP Farmstead System, 1,344,550 pounds and 226,226 gallons of fertilizer; 55,032 pounds and 8,143 gallons of pesticide; and 107,410 gallons of fuel were verified as being safely stored.

- Safely Used – On MAEAP Cropping System farms, 9,682 pounds and 25,580 gallons of pesticide, and 8,547,498 pounds and 569,980 gallons of fertilizer, were verified as being safely and appropriately used.

- Working with small and medium live producers:
  - Almost 20 percent eliminated a direct discharge. In total, 130 direct discharges were eliminated on 101 farms.
  - More than 10 percent eliminated at least one area that was at high risk of having a discharge. In total, 186 high discharge risks were eliminated.
  - More than 1000 conservation practices were implemented, including site-specific field evaluations, mapping sensitive areas, planting cover crops, changing tillage practices, installing buffers and evaluating fields for the appropriateness of winter manure application.